

Minutes
Academic Affairs Committee
March 19, 2001

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education met March 19, 2001, 8:30 a.m. (ET), Eastern Kentucky University, Keen Johnson Building, Richmond, Kentucky.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Chair Norma Adams, Peggy Bertelsman, Philip Huddleston, Shirley Menendez, Joan Taylor, Lois Weinberg, and Gene Wilhoit. Lee Todd and Charles Whitehead did not attend.

*APPROVAL OF
MINUTES*

The minutes of the February 5, 2001 meeting were approved as distributed.

*INFORMATION:
ADULT EDUCATION
NEW OPPORTUNITY
GRANT UPDATE*

Ms. Adams noted that this agenda item is an information item, rather than an action item as indicated in the agenda book. The agenda item is on pages 91 and 92 of the agenda booklet, with attachments on pages 93 through 97.

Cheryl King presented the item for discussion. In November, the council approved up to \$1.5 million to fund new opportunity grants. Sixty-two proposals, totaling \$12 million, were received. The review team included representatives from the Department for Adult Education and Literacy, Council on Postsecondary Education, Workforce Development Cabinet, Governor's Office for Policy and Management, business and industries, and labor. Several proposals were selected for a second-tier review. The team decided to fund nine projects (listed on pages 93-95 of the agenda book), totaling \$1,060,723.

Each project will be evaluated at its conclusion. Some projects are for 12 months, others for 24. A number of proposals include online learning. The team is reviewing various courses and programs that will be available statewide online through the KYVU.

Ms. Weinberg commented on the evaluation process and asked what groups would benefit from the online method.

Ms. King said that the funded projects will serve about 3,436 people. The map on page 96 (of the agenda book) indicates that the funded projects are from all areas of the state. The Youth Challenge program at

Fort Knox will attract disadvantaged youths from across the Commonwealth. These nine projects use technology and online learning, reaching the hardest-to-serve individuals. Many of the programs include mentoring to improve retention and smooth transitions to postsecondary education or work.

Ms. Menendez asked if evaluations will recognize successful models that can be replicated. Ms. King said yes. Criteria for selection required that models be based on best practices and use of research.

Ms. Bertelsman asked the definition of literacy Level 1 and at what point does someone switch from Level 1 to 2. Ms. King said that Level 1 indicates a non-reader or a reader at minimal skill. There are two major ways to assess progress. One is the more traditional approach of grade level gains and skills assessment using Work Keys. But progress can be based on a number of assessment instruments. Traditionally, adult education uses the TABE, which equates to a grade level. The COMPASS is used in some postsecondary institutions. The trend is toward competency-based assessment.

Ms. Bertelsman said it appears that most of the proposals are targeted to people at literacy Level 2. Ms. King responded that they vary, but many of them are for higher literacy levels. Many, not all, of the projects focus on skills that people need to move into the workplace or postsecondary education. Some projects target people who have dropped out several times. Criteria for participation include not only low literacy levels, but also life barriers.

Ms. Bertelsman asked if there will be another round of opportunity grants. Ms. King said that it is uncertain. To ensure that we are moving toward our agenda, specific areas may be targeted if there is another round of funding. Ms. Bertelsman said we should think about targeting the intent of these funds in a better way.

Ms. Bertelsman commented that one of the funded projects should have targeted those who absolutely cannot read. She said that it is unrealistic to assume that people who cannot read will reach postsecondary education and that they can learn to read well enough to get a job.

Ms. Adams said that the projects from Madisonville Community College and Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative stated goals for measuring outcomes, and others simply said they would be judged by 10 criteria but did not elaborate. Ms. King said perhaps

the project summaries do not adequately reflect the stated success criteria. There are measurable outcomes for each project.

Ms. Taylor said that the National Guard proposal specified following up with graduates. She asked if projects will be monitored. Ms. King said six regional consultants will be in contact with the project directors. A series of meetings will be held with the project staff. Also, a mid-point update and an end report and evaluation will be required.

RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the council approve the master of arts in teaching (MAT) proposed by Northern Kentucky University. The agenda item and executive summary are on pages 99-100 of the agenda book. Mary Lepper and Linda Olasov of NKU presented the item.

ACTION:
MA IN TEACHING,
NORTHERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY

This is a new program in response to needs in northern Kentucky and the state. In the next 10 years, 2.2 million teachers will be needed. House Bill 77 calls for alternative routes to teacher certification. After completing the program, students will be a Rank II teacher. Classes are scheduled for late afternoons and weekends, allowing those who are currently teaching without certification to participate. Also, the MAT provides an opportunity to those wanting to work while acquiring teaching credentials. This option has not been provided.

Ms. Weinberg asked how we prevent Kentucky teachers from leaving to teach in another state, often at a better salary. Ms. Lepper responded that this is a problem everywhere and one without an easy answer. Kentucky legislators need to provide competitive teacher salaries. Other states recruit Kentucky graduates with signing bonuses. Ms. Adams asked if scholarships for teachers who stay in Kentucky would help. Gene Wilhoit, commissioner of the Department of Education, said legislative funding would be required. During Kentucky's 2002 legislative session, this will be studied.

Mr. Huddleston asked for an explanation of the course requirements. Ms. Lepper said in addition to pedagogy, the students would be guided and mentored by experienced teachers and university faculty in context, history, technology, and diversity. NKU would team with community schools. Students would have already taken the PRAXIS II exam or would take it the first semester (a condition for continuing in the program). An internship would be required.

Ms. Taylor said current graduates are not being well prepared as a result of non-partnership or the university's not being accountable. Ms. Lepper said there has been discussion about "guaranteeing student success."

Jim Applegate said the council has talked with the Education Professional Standards Board. The board is developing a state report card for teacher education programs that will hold them accountable. Also, the council staff is reviewing another MAT proposal from Eastern Kentucky University. Collaboration with the NKU program and other MAT programs in the state is being discussed.

Ms. Olasov said that a part of the internship protocol will be revised this year and will require retraining of faculty. This program has been shared with Kentucky State University.

Ms. Bertelsmann asked if the program is geared toward students who are already teaching or those with degrees in other fields. Ms. Olasov replied that the program would accommodate both.

There are six approved routes for alternative certification. This is the only one that is university driven and controlled. The other five work with public schools.

There was discussion about what other institutions are doing with the MAT program. Some are modifying existing programs. Attention is given to the way that alternate routes are created for people to get credentials.

Gordon Davies, council president, said that the virtual university is an excellent way to ensure that there is an adequate cohort throughout the state for these programs. He suggested that the committee consider approving this program with the stipulation that it would develop a component that includes the KYVU and that all future programs would do the same. There was lengthy discussion about the need for collaboration among institutions and for institutional programs to be offered through the KYVU.

Mr. Huddleston said that the Commonwealth produces many teachers. But almost 50 percent leave the classroom within two years. Perhaps online delivery would provide some extra access to the program to current teachers and help keep them in the classroom.

Ms. Menendez made a motion for amending the recommendation to include a requirement that the KYVU be a part of the program. The motion was seconded.

Discussion continued, with Mr. Wilhoit saying it would be a concern if master's of art in teaching programs across the state result in different outcomes. Our responsibility is to ensure that Kentucky has enough competent teachers. Some people entering the system need more content knowledge. Some have the content knowledge but limited experience working with students. Because of life experiences, others have both content and the ability to relate to students. We need to define what a teacher with a master's degree should know. What would this committee sanction as a set of definitions for content competency and ability to relate to students and to motivate students? EPSB has provided definitions. We have national standards that teachers must meet and there are several ways to measure that. The one being used in Kentucky is PRAXIS.

Mr. Wilhoit said Kentucky has a teacher shortage. During past teacher shortages, it has lowered standards. Kentucky cannot afford to do that again, and that is why these kinds of programs are critical.

Ms. Lepper said that the program will be proficiency based and that every student's application will be reviewed. There were 200 inquiries about the program last fall. Many superintendents support this program.

Mr. Huddleston offered an amendment to the amended recommendation, which included that NKU report to the council in May regarding the KYVU component in the MAT program.

VOTE: The amendment passed.

Ms. Adams said that this second amendment negates the necessity for a vote on the first amendment. The committee now recommends to the council the approval of this MAT program, with the amendment that NKU report to the council in May regarding offerings through the KYVU.

VOTE: The recommendation as amended passed.

RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the council approve the master of science and doctor of science in clinical sciences programs proposed by the University of Kentucky.

Jim Applegate introduced Dr. James Holsinger, chancellor, UK Medical Center, and Tom Robinson, dean, UK allied health professions.

Mr. Applegate noted that this proposed program began as a joint one with the University of Louisville. With the closing of UofL's allied health program, the proposal now comes from UK.

*ACTION: MS AND DSc
IN CLINICAL
SCIENCES PROGRAM
PROPOSAL, UK*

Dr. Holsinger gave a brief update of new programs the council has approved over the last five years.

The proposed master of science and doctor of science programs in the College of Allied Health Professions (in clinical laboratory science) will provide a continuum of training from existing bachelor's and associate programs offered by technical and community colleges and universities. The new programs will include a distance learning component.

Dean Robinson said that UK's allied health program, established in 1936, is one of the oldest and best in the nation. This proposal extends that reputation to the graduate level. This program consists of two tracks, one in transplantology hematology and the other in reproductive technology, an area of growth. There are many new biological laboratories offering employment opportunities for graduates. UK is ready to provide students from within the Commonwealth. The faculty is one of the first in the nation to use interactive TV, providing undergraduate degrees at Hazard Community College at the Center for Rural Health. The programs will become more involved with Web-based and Web-enhanced courses, to distribute undergraduate education. The allied health program has some experience with distance learning and Web-enhanced courses, and most of the core courses can be converted for distance learning.

There was discussion about student interest and employment opportunities. Dean Robinson reported that six to 12 students already have expressed interest in the program. A survey showed high interest in graduate training. There are more than 300 reproductive laboratories in the nation, all with vacancies. There is no program like this in the country. Most lab employees received on-the-job training. There is a 15 percent vacancy rate in laboratories. Many alumni and some hospital-based programs (such as, UofL, Owensboro Technical College, and Pikeville

Osteopathic School) will recruit students.

Ms. Adams said that in the proposal, distance learning and Web-enhanced courses are mentioned. She asked about plans to explore use of the virtual university to deliver some of these courses. Dean Robinson said he would like to use the virtual university as a way to reach more students. Ms. Adams requested that UK report to the council in July regarding its virtual university component. Dean Robinson said he would work with the virtual university to see what could be offered and could report in May or July, with a more substantial report in September.

MOTION: Ms. Bertelsman moved that the recommendation be approved.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Mr. Applegate said he met with the presidents and other academic leadership from ECU, WKU, UK, and UofL about public health. These institutions are putting together 15 hours of common core courses that are needed for the master's in public health that will be offered through the KYVU, allowing students from all institutions access to the strengths of all the faculties and avoiding course duplication.

Ms. Adams led a discussion about the KYVU role in all program proposals sent to the council for review and approval. Mr. Applegate offered to review programs approved in the past three years to assess institutions' use of the KYVU.

Ms. Adams also asked that staff review the program approval process to ensure that all institutions proposing new programs explore use of the KYVU. Mr. Applegate offered to report on progress to the council at its May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

James L. Applegate
Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jerry Ann Warmouth
Secretary